

Weekly COVID-19 Update in Montana (as of 2/25/2022)

This report is a weekly snapshot of COVID-19 activity in Montana. Data are analyzed based on information available as of February 25, 2022. Data are provisional and expected to change as more information is received.

Case Data

Table 1. Summary of COVID-19 Activity – Montana, as of 2/25/2022

	TOTAL	RECENT WEEK	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
REPORTED CASES	266,494	2,593	-43%
LABORATORY TESTS	2,636,798	21,967	-21%
HOSPITALIZATIONS	11,608	163	-29%
DEATHS	3,187	63	+21%

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations over Time – Montana, as of 2/25/2022

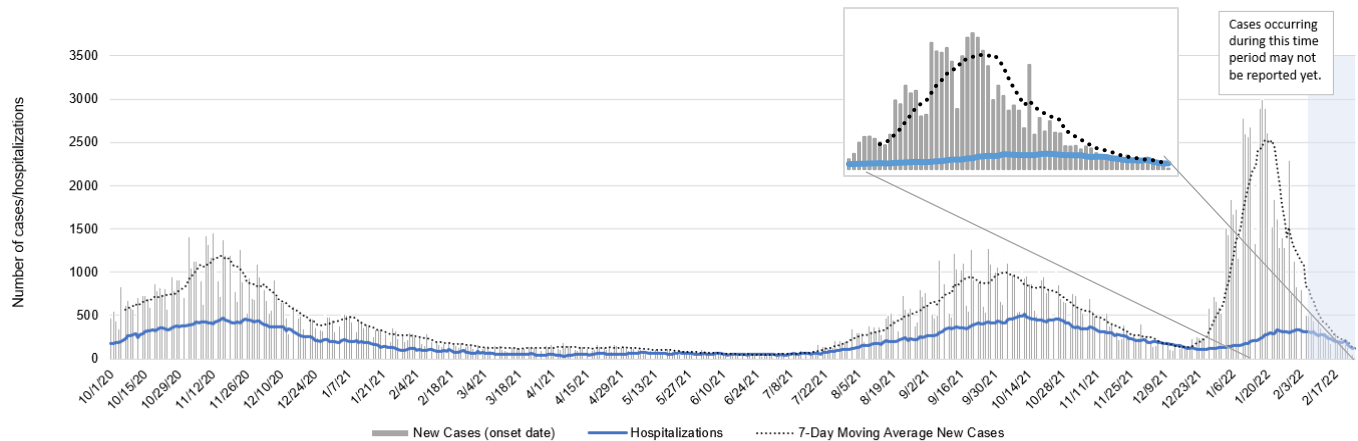


Figure 2: Status of Acute Care and ICU Beds – Hospitals in Montana, 2/15 – 3/1/2022

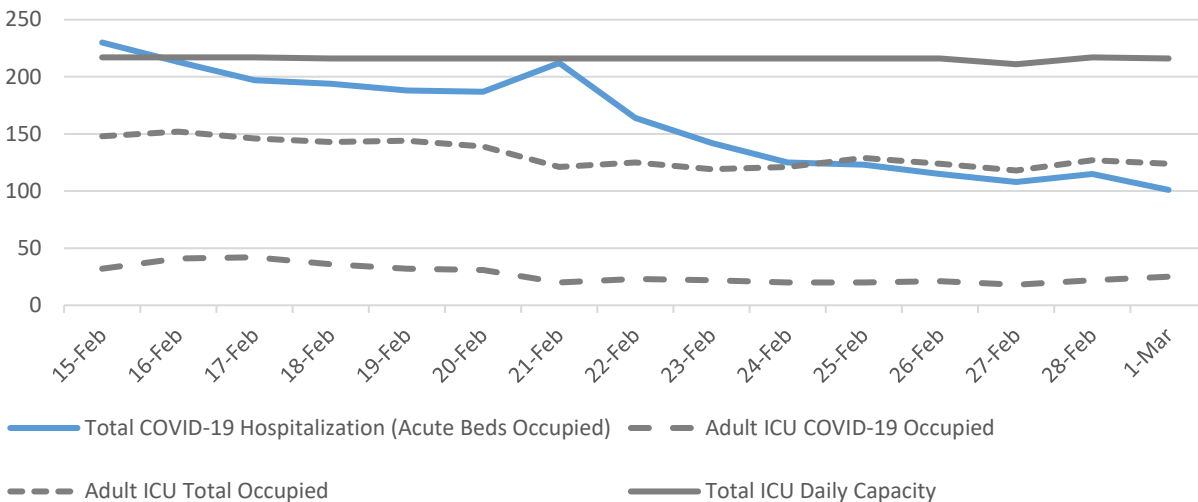
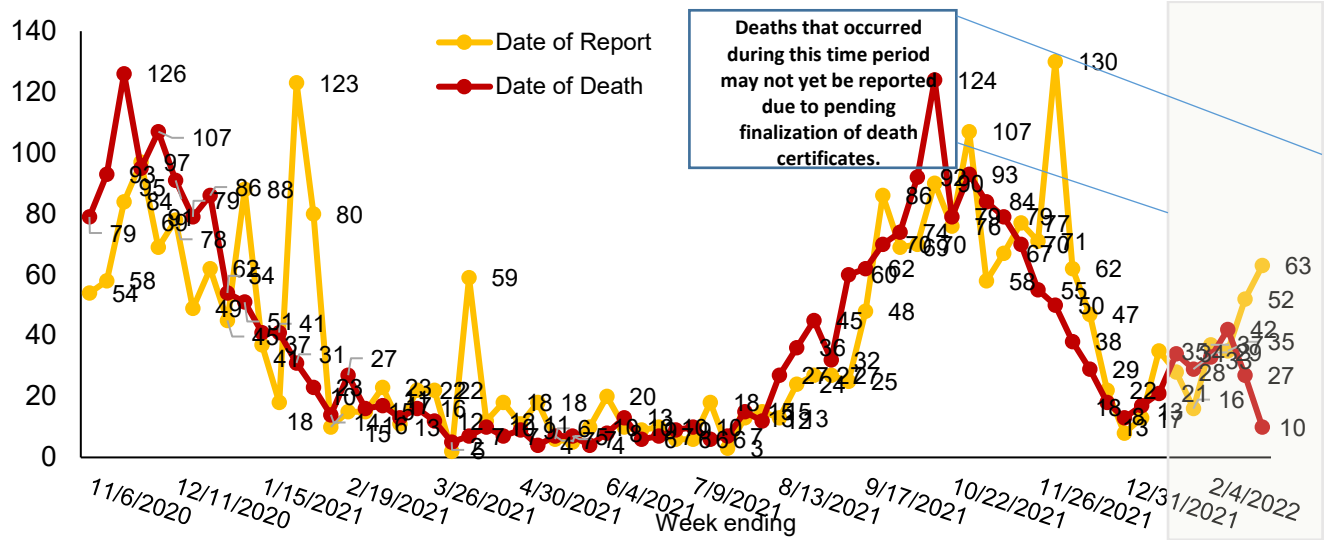


Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths by Report Date and Date of Death – Montana, 11/1/2020 – 2/25/2022



Vaccine Data

Montana began vaccinating individuals in mid-December 2020 with a phased process: Phase 1A on December 14, 2020, Phase 1B on January 19, 2021, and Phase 1B+ on March 8, 2021. Vaccinations were opened to all Montanans age 16+ on April 1, 2021 and expanded to all Montanans age 12+ on May 10th, 2021. Most recently, the Pfizer vaccine was approved for the 5-11 year old age group on October 29th, 2021. To date, 1,406,161 doses have been given across the state and 54% of the eligible population is considered fully vaccinated (table 2).

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered for the 5 and older population – Montana, as of 2/25/2022

	NUMBER	PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE POPULATION	WEEK ENDING 2/11	WEEK ENDING 2/18	WEEK ENDING 2/25*
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	1,406,161		5,351	3,720	2,723
DOSE 1 ADMINISTERED	628,145	62%	1,445	963	637
FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS	555,594	54%	1,472	1,189	978

*the data for the most recent week are preliminary and are expected to be an underestimate of the doses administered during the week, due to a reporting lag.

Figure 4. COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Week, 5+ Years – Montana, as of 2/25/2022

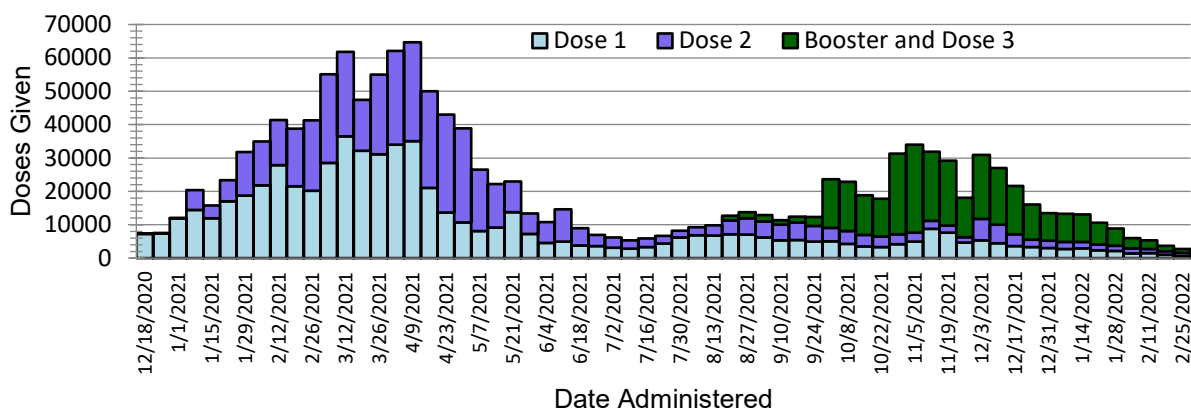
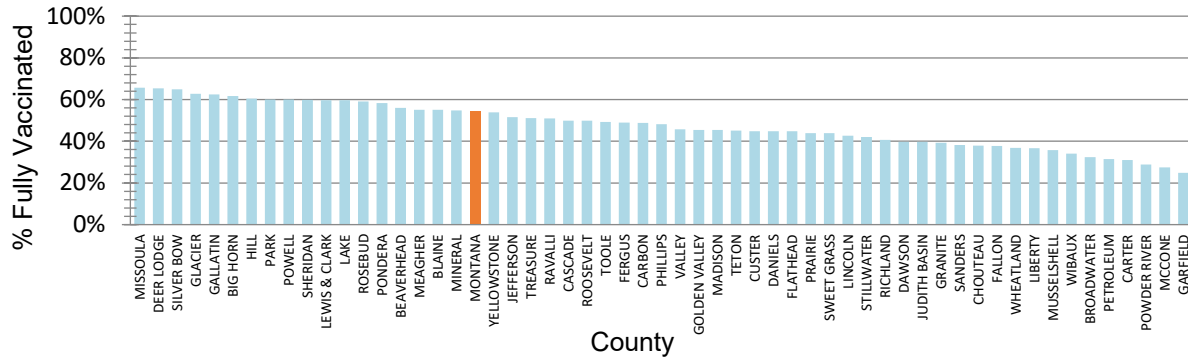


Figure 5. Percent of Eligible Montanans (5+ years) Fully Vaccinated by County – Montana, 2/25/2022



Variant and Breakthrough Cases

Figure 7 displays the percentage of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages detected each week, of all Montana samples sequenced that were collected that week. There were 11,892 samples from Montana that were sequenced and their lineages were reported to GISAID since September 2020; figure 6 displays the number of specimens sequenced by week.

As of March 1, there have been 2,841 cases in Montana infected with the Omicron variant. In the last two weeks, 90/90 (100%) specimens that were collected and sequenced were Omicron. In the last four weeks 720/721 (99.9%) specimens that were collected and sequenced were Omicron, and one was Delta. Omicron is the dominant circulating strain in the state, and is displayed in brown on the chart below.

Figure 6. Number of COVID-19 samples sequenced by collection date, Montana 2/25/2022 [n=11,892]

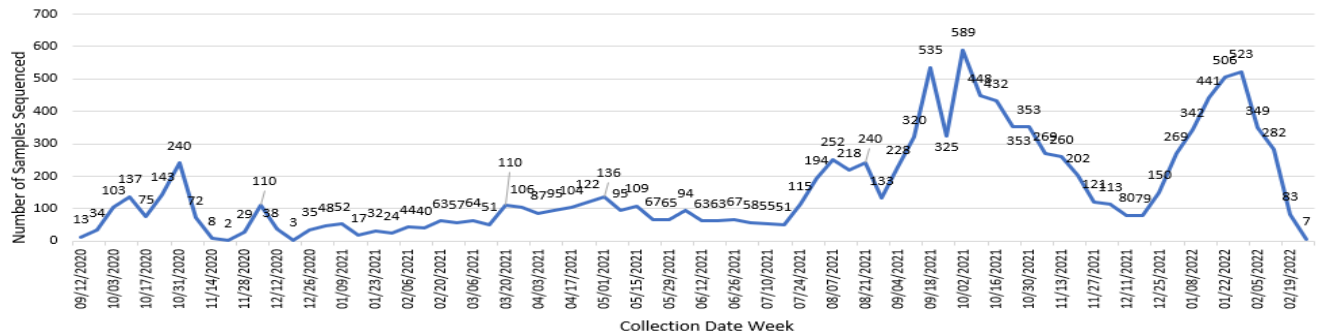
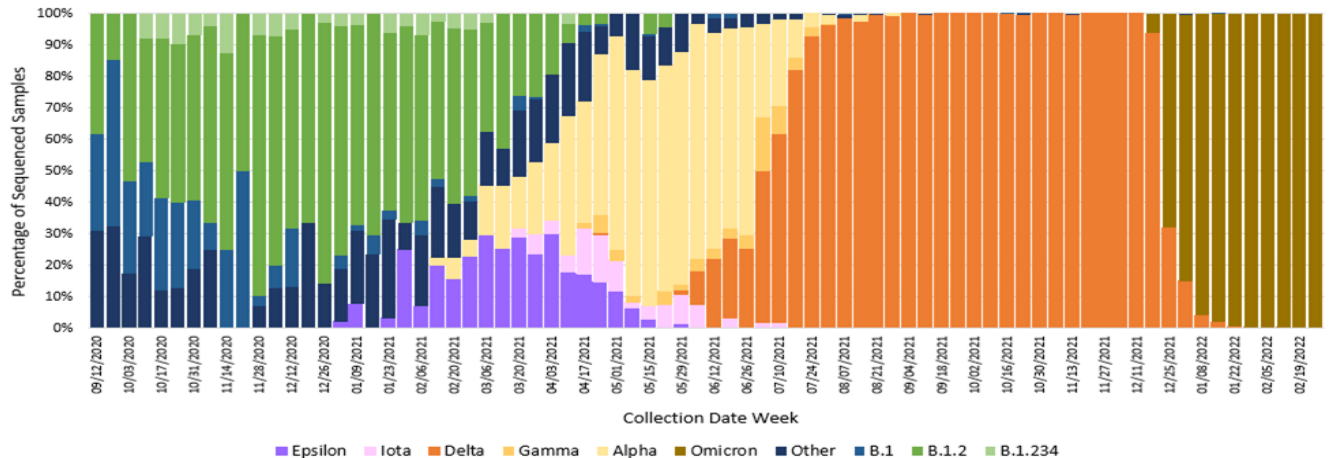


Figure 7. Percent of COVID-19 variants in sequenced samples by collection date, Montana 2/25/2022



A breakthrough COVID-19 infection is defined as a positive SARS-CoV-2 specimen collected ≥ 14 days after completing the primary COVID-19 vaccine series of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Studies show that protection from COVID vaccination decreases over time; in response, the CDC has recommended booster doses for eligible populations to protect against waning immunity. As of 2/25/2022, Montana reports 39,864 cases of confirmed breakthrough disease, which includes 1,341 hospitalizations and 364 deaths. CDC data from December show that unvaccinated adults were more than 3 times more likely to become infected with COVID, compared to fully vaccinated adults with a booster dose. Additionally, unvaccinated adults had 41 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to fully vaccinated adults with booster doses.¹

Hospitalizations and Deaths and Vaccination Status

COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths were analyzed between **April 1, 2021 and February 25, 2022** to review vaccination status. Since the beginning of April 2021, 80% of Montanans who were hospitalized and 77% of those who died were unvaccinated at the time of infection (Table 3). Of the 6,766 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 129 (2%) were <18 years old, 926 (14%) were 18 to 44 years old, 2,228 (33%) were 45 to 64 years old and 3,483 (51%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Additionally, COVID-19-related hospitalization and death data from **January 1 – February 25, 2022** (last 8 weeks) were analyzed to review vaccination status. Sixty-six percent of Montanans who were hospitalized and 71% of those who died had not received a COVID-19 vaccine (Table 4). Of the 1,153 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 37 (3%) were <18 years old, 119 (10%) were 18 to 44 years old, 284 (25%) were 45 to 64 years old and 713 (62%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Table 3. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – April 1 to February 25, 2022

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	6,766	1,591
UNVACCINATED	5,433 (80%)	1,231 (77%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	1,333 (20%)	360 (23%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-102 (63)	23-103 (71)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	7-103 (74)	20-101 (81)

Table 4. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – January 1 to February 25, 2022

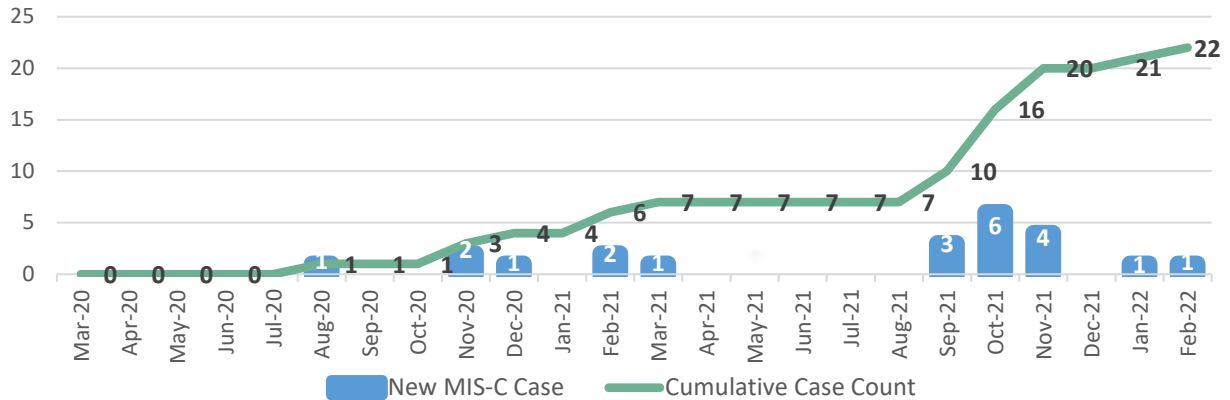
	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	1,153	213
UNVACCINATED	758 (66%)	151 (71%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	395 (34%)	62 (29%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-101 (68)	30-101 (73)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	7-103 (73)	48-95 (78)

¹ CDC – COVID Data Tracker – Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status.
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>. March 1, 2022.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

As of February 25, 2022, there have been a total of 22 reported cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, reported in Montana. There have been no deaths. Ages range from less than 1 year to 20 years old; median is 8 years. Ten cases were female, 12 were male. Cases are from 13 counties around Montana. The first case of MIS-C was reported in August 2020; 15 of the 22 cases have been reported since September 2021 (Figure 8).

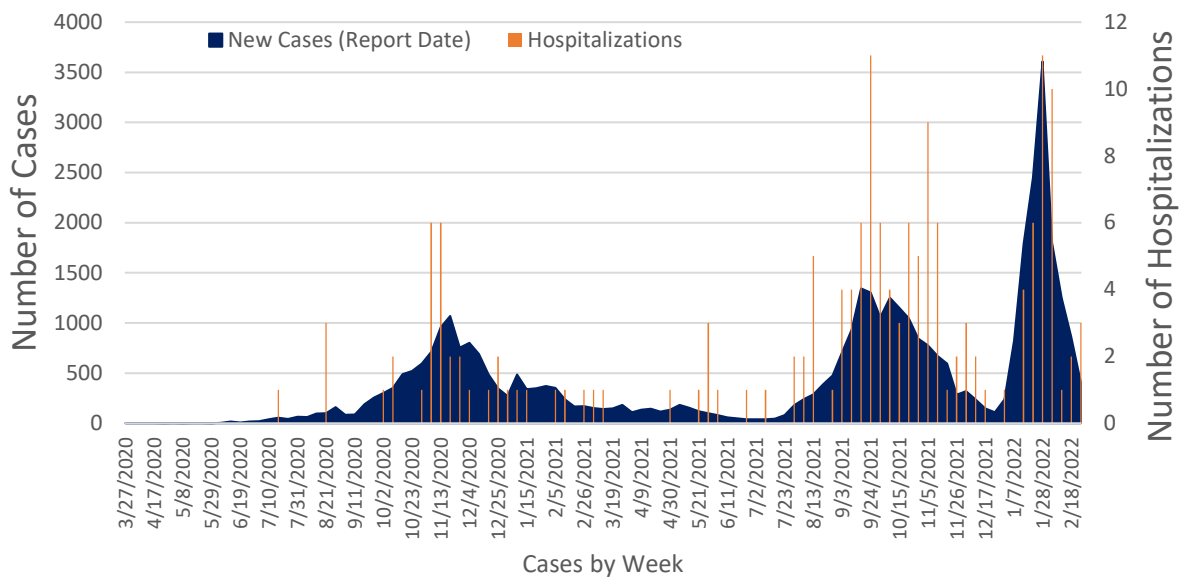
Figure 8. Montana MIS-C Cases by Month of Onset, March 2020 – February 2022



Cases and Hospitalizations Associated with COVID-19 Among Children

To date, there have been 41,977 children <18 years old in Montana diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, 165 (<1%) have been hospitalized. Case rates among children follow a similar pattern to COVID-19 cases among all age groups (see Figure 1 for comparison) and increased sharply during the recent Omicron surge (Figure 9). There were 410 cases of COVID-19 in children reported during the week of February 19 – February 25, 2022, which is a 52% decrease in cases among that age group compared to the previous week. Three hospitalizations in children were reported that week. Three hospitalizations in children were reported that week.

Figure 9. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by Week, March 2020 – February 25, 2022, Children <18



Reported COVID-19 Cases by County with Trendline – Montana, past 6 weeks

County	21-Jan	28-Jan	4-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	change from previous week*	Trendline
Beaverhead	135	153	60	29	12	12	0	
Big Horn	153	387	177	302	224	9	-215	
Blaine	103	142	32	187	23	9	-14	
Broadwater	41	41	34	25	29	12	-17	
Carbon	62	89	51	33	15	11	-4	
Carter	1	10	3	2	2	2	0	
Cascade	949	1701	1149	941	936	717	-219	
Chouteau	25	22	28	27	13	12	-1	
Custer	151	149	80	51	35	9	-26	
Daniels	22	10	11	13	1	3	2	
Dawson	80	106	102	37	8	8	0	
Deer Lodge	180	181	109	72	24	37	13	
Fallon	39	22	18	17	6	0	-6	
Fergus	44	152	67	75	67	21	-46	
Flathead	507	1230	918	583	1001	643	-358	
Gallatin	2430	1843	717	421	251	179	-72	
Garfield	7	12	2	4	3	0	-3	
Glacier	128	349	264	170	198	32	-166	
Golden Valley	6	7	6	5	0	1	1	
Granite	32	9	15	8	9	2	-7	
Hill	165	312	157	159	33	24	-9	
Jefferson	125	148	82	63	20	4	-16	
Judith Basin	11	12	5	6	3	1	-2	
Lake	258	598	170	127	233	61	-172	
Lewis and Clark	673	1492	958	327	174	93	-81	
Liberty	18	25	15	10	5	7	2	
Lincoln	188	232	171	89	41	40	-1	
Madison	92	61	47	24	12	4	-8	
McCone	22	14	13	6	3	1	-2	
Meagher	30	43	10	17	3	3	0	

County	21-Jan	28-Jan	4-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	change from previous week*	Trendline
Mineral	89	82	36	22	13	4	-9	
Missoula	1405	2462	1502	527	302	159	-143	
Musselshell	24	35	15	21	5	4	-1	
Park	421	255	125	161	82	15	-67	
Petroleum	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	
Phillips	45	31	21	22	9	1	-8	
Pondera	59	91	57	32	8	4	-4	
Powder River	5	12	6	6	5	2	-3	
Powell	98	99	45	50	9	6	-3	
Prairie	16	6	14	6	3	0	-3	
Ravalli	305	268	198	113	38	45	7	
Richland	29	156	80	43	20	13	-7	
Roosevelt	127	195	203	155	67	26	-41	
Rosebud	44	85	76	310	118	67	-51	
Sanders	120	113	36	42	16	11	-5	
Sheridan	34	24	22	24	8	1	-7	
Silver Bow	470	608	172	125	70	38	-32	
Stillwater	69	32	36	27	12	7	-5	
Sweet Grass	38	32	20	9	2	7	5	
Teton	79	62	33	14	11	9	-2	
Toole	35	48	60	22	8	3	-5	
Treasure	2	8	7	2	0	0	0	
Valley	50	44	50	38	18	12	-6	
Wheatland	17	34	22	18	6	0	-6	
Wibaux	7	7	5	0	1	0	-1	
Yellowstone	1552	3037	1400	637	315	201	-114	
MONTANA	11818	17383	9712	6257	4530	2593	-1937	

*Note: Data are based on the date of report into the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). Underlined numbers in the above table reflect adjusted counts and may include cases diagnosed but not reported in earlier time frames. These adjustments result from local and state data reconciliation efforts, conducted to ensure accurate data.

County name	Eligible population 5+	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Fully Immunized	Total Doses Administered	Percent eligible with first dose (5+)	Percent Fully Vaccinated (5+)
BEAVERHEAD	9,091	5,464	4,390	2,552	5,085	12,406	60%	56%
BIG HORN	11,975	8,196	7,018	2,698	7,389	17,912	68%	62%
BLAINE	6,044	3,726	3,124	1,479	3,332	8,329	62%	55%
BROADWATER	6,092	2,361	1,730	926	1,969	5,017	39%	32%
CARBON	10,476	5,573	4,758	2,646	5,107	12,977	53%	49%
CARTER	1,141	377	332	177	354	886	33%	31%
CASCADE	76,124	42,706	33,878	17,272	37,931	93,856	56%	50%
CHOUTEAU	5,430	2,221	1,873	1,278	2,060	5,372	41%	38%
CUSTER	10,692	5,335	4,285	2,309	4,791	11,929	50%	45%
DANIELS	1,559	740	643	342	698	1,725	47%	45%
DAWSON	8,071	3,505	2,900	1,560	3,208	7,965	43%	40%
DEER LODGE	8,887	6,341	5,234	3,189	5,811	14,764	71%	65%
FALLON	2,646	1,083	947	465	997	2,495	41%	38%
FERGUS	10,495	5,475	4,734	2,724	5,135	12,933	52%	49%
FLATHEAD	99,993	51,875	40,486	21,875	44,767	114,236	52%	45%
GALLATIN	110,900	82,412	63,155	32,858	69,330	178,425	74%	63%
GARFIELD	1,188	319	253	103	296	675	27%	25%
GLACIER	12,447	10,443	7,248	3,122	7,805	20,813	84%	63%
GOLDEN VALLEY	788	387	326	158	358	871	49%	45%
GRANITE	3,218	1,448	1,156	606	1,263	3,210	45%	39%
HILL	14,914	9,860	7,633	4,000	9,014	21,493	66%	60%
JEFFERSON	11,819	6,694	5,679	3,190	6,087	15,563	57%	52%
JUDITH BASIN	1,880	792	685	382	746	1,859	42%	40%
LAKE	29,280	19,832	16,266	8,673	17,472	44,771	68%	60%
LEWIS & CLARK	66,257	44,948	36,673	21,091	39,540	102,712	68%	60%
LIBERTY	2,234	852	719	444	819	2,015	38%	37%
LINCOLN	19,480	9,427	7,604	4,147	8,311	21,178	48%	43%
MADISON	8,589	4,388	3,466	2,043	3,902	9,897	51%	45%
MCCONE	1,562	452	419	236	428	1,107	29%	27%
MEAGHER	1,726	1,006	869	493	952	2,368	58%	55%
MINERAL	4,302	2,620	1,887	1,164	2,358	5,671	61%	55%
MISSOULA	115,881	84,610	70,088	40,166	76,117	194,864	73%	66%
MUSSELSHELL	4,458	1,720	1,396	715	1,591	3,831	39%	36%
PARK	15,969	11,143	8,648	4,894	9,573	24,685	70%	60%
PETROLEUM	483	162	142	85	152	389	34%	31%
PHILLIPS	3,675	1,898	1,461	891	1,768	4,250	52%	48%
PONDERA	5,389	3,543	2,769	1,434	3,144	7,746	66%	58%
POWDER RIVER	1,588	500	402	202	459	1,104	31%	29%
POWELL	6,534	4,208	3,125	1,811	3,916	9,144	64%	60%
PRAIRIE	994	462	412	234	436	1,108	46%	44%
RAVALLI	42,972	24,401	19,537	11,752	21,915	55,690	57%	51%
RICHLAND	10,310	4,450	3,503	1,823	4,185	9,776	43%	41%
ROOSEVELT	9,918	5,639	4,197	2,005	4,941	11,841	57%	50%
ROSEBUD	8,160	5,420	4,300	2,138	4,823	11,858	66%	59%
SANDERS	11,641	5,006	4,147	2,273	4,440	11,426	43%	38%
SHERIDAN	3,075	1,932	1,706	975	1,840	4,613	63%	60%
SILVER BOW	33,267	23,728	20,254	11,107	21,597	55,089	71%	65%
STILLWATER	9,451	4,330	3,416	2,028	3,968	9,774	46%	42%
SWEET GRASS	3,523	1,698	1,320	787	1,545	3,805	48%	44%
TETON	5,819	3,101	2,186	1,218	2,626	6,505	53%	45%
TOOLE	4,391	2,320	1,755	763	2,162	4,838	53%	49%
TREASURE	623	425	295	141	318	861	68%	51%
VALLEY	6,931	3,360	2,715	1,663	3,171	7,738	48%	46%
WHEATLAND	2,035	802	695	395	750	1,892	39%	37%
WIBAUX	898	354	298	128	306	780	39%	34%
YELLOWSTONE	153,378	92,075	76,274	38,775	82,536	207,124	60%	54%
MONTANA	1,020,663	628,145	505,411	272,605	555,594	1,406,161	62%	54%